

## U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity National Forest



### Notes: Public Field Trip for Highway 89 Project

**Date:** June 18, 2016

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### Introductions and Safety Briefing

- Public attendee: Ron Berryman, Dale Nova, and Giselle Nova.
- Forest attendees: Carolyn Napper, Heather McRae, and Ann Glubczynski.

#### Status of the Project

- The status of data collection, wildlife surveys, preliminary unit layout and possible tree marking scenarios were discussed. Leave tree vs. cut tree marking, and designation by description were also discussed as options.
- The status of the NEPA process: the Draft EIS is in progress, along with effects analyses for various resources. The Draft EIS is expected to be ready for public comment this summer. Opportunity to object to the Draft Record of Decision and Final EIS were discussed, along with the objection resolution process. The first area of implementation will be the Snowman's Block area, possibly in late spring of 2017.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Stop: Snowman's Block

- Discussion of the project treatments in the Snowman's Block included variable density thinning across size classes, and retaining legacy trees and trees with broken tops, cavities, etc. for wildlife. It was requested that removal of diseased and dying trees be prioritized. Group selection, salvage logging, and sanitation were also discussed. The public was interested in evacuation routes along Hwy 89 and how the treatments would modify fire behavior during summer conditions. They also wanted to know about thinning prescriptions within the WUI. We talked about treatments along the powerlines to reduce impacts during winter and summer conditions. Increased sunlight reaching the pavement during the winter was a priority for the local residents as we heard stories of accidents from snow falling from trees with branches hanging over the roadway.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Stop: McCloud River Area

- A second stop was made at a >10-inch dbh plantation near the intersection of Highway 89 and Pilgrim Creek Road. On Pilgrim Creek Road. Fire danger, WUI in the project area, public education and interpretive opportunities, stewardship, and continued coordination with Fire Safe Councils were discussed.